

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

66618

DRAFTED BY EA/RLSNEIDER:AVM

APPROVED BY EA/RLSNEIDER

EA: ASSISTANT SECY-DES. INGERSOLL

EA/J:MR. RRICSON

S/S-HGBARNES

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R 010213Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236015

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS - FOR SHOESMITH FROM SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN PRINCIPLES DECLARATION

REF: TOKYO 15387

1. AS USUAL, I AM ALWAYS APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS. BU,, ON THIS OCCASION I FIND THAT I AM NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THEM.

2. WHILE I DO NOT WISH TO DIMINISH IN ANY WAY THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE US TIES WITH JAPAN, I PERSONALLY FIND STRESSING "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" INCREASINGLY ANACHRONISTIC. TERM WAS USED FIRST DURING POST-OCCUPATION PERIOD AND MADE A GREAT DEAL MORE SENSE THAN IT DOES NOW.

3. FURTHERMORE, EUROPEANS HAVE LONG LEANED ON US TO "TAKE CARE OF" JAPANESE, PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AREA. THIS
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RELIEVED EUROPEANS OF RESPONSIBILITY TO ABSORB ANY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF JAPANESE EXPORT PRESSURES. POINT I WAS MAKING TO BARTELS WAS THAT THEY COULD NO LONGER USE CRUTCH OF "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH US TO AVOID A RESPONSIBLE ROLE WITH RESPECT TO JAPAN.

4. FINALLY, I VERY MUCH DOUBT WHETHER THESE WORDS, IF THEY GET BACK TO THE JAPANESE, WILL COME AS ANY SHOCK. FOR SOME 15 YEARS, I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED BY THE EXCESSIVE BILATERALISM IN US-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND HAVE BEEN PRESSING BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND WITH JAPANESE FOR A BROADER JAPANESE EXPOSURE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD. THOSE JAPANESE WITH WHOM I HAVE DEALT HAVE UNFAILINGLY AGREED ON THE MERITS OF THIS APPROACH. THE FIRST FRUITS OF THIS EFFORT WAS JAPANESE FULL MEMBERSHIP IN OECD. A FURTHER STAGE IS JAPANESE ASSOCIATION WITH THE TRIPARTITE DECLARATION.

5. I FRANKLY THINK THAT OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE A MATURE RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN THAT RECOGNIZES THE STRONG CONFLUENCE OF COMMON INTERESTS, BUT PLACES THIS RELATIONSHIP IN A BROADER MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, RATHER THAN IN A TIGHT BINDING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH CAN ONLY LEAD TO MUTUAL FRUSTRATIONS.

6. WITH BEST REGARDS. PLEASE DROP ME A NOTE AFTER YOU HAVE DIGESTED ABOVE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE236015
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/RLSNEIDER:AVM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750029-1660
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcekan.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: TOKYO 15387
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN PRINCIPLES DECLARATION
TAGS: PFOR, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005